Commission's statistical claim that 98.4 per cent of Indian population is covered under drinking water scheme; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission is aware of the data given in the Human Development report 2000 of the UNDP regarding population having no access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. We understand that the data used in the report is calculated on the basis of access data of the UNICEF. UNICEF have primarily relied on Government's Statistics of 1996 and appear to have supplemented it from other sources also. These figures broadly tally with those of the Central Government. The Central Government's statistics are based on the reports furnished by the State Governments.

The Statistical claim about 98.4% coverage of Indian population 'under drinking water schemes' has not been made in any published document of the Planning Commission. In fact the PEO survey in 29 districts of 16 States showed that 40% villages complained of shortage during summer months in 1996-97. Many surveys done later have also confirmed that for half of the population either quantity or quality of water was inadequate especially during summer months.

Data Bank on Indians Abroad

*280. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of External Affairs propose to prepare a data bank of Indians abroad in a bid to strengthen the network of NRIs and people of Indian Origin; and

(b) if so, how long will it take to complete the process of data bank?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The planning for undertaking this work has commenced. However, it is not possible to prescribe a definite time-frame for its completion.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Fall in the production of foodgrains

2016. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth rate of production of foodgrains is going down in comparison to the level of population growth, since the process of reform was undertaken;

(b) reasons for decline despite the fact that there was by and large fairly good rainfall during the past years; and

(c) steps Government propose to take for reversing the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) According to Technical Group on Population Projection constituted by the Planning Commission, the annual compound growth rate of population in the decade of 90s (1991-2001) is estimated at 1.79% per annum whereas compound growth rate of foodgrains production (during 1990-91 to 1999-2000) is estimated at 1.97%.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The production of foodgrains is continuously monitored and various steps have been taken to achieve higher production levels. These include, *inter-alia*, implementation of Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area and National Pulses Development Project. Under these programmes/project, incentives